

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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APPROVED BY NEA;HHS SAUNDERS  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 095903

FOR CHIEF OF MISSION FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR AMB.-AT-LARGE ATHERTON  
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS, APRIL 11, 1978

1. AS MY FIRST OFFICIAL ACT, I WANT YOU AND ALL OF OUR  
NEA COLLEAGUES TO KNOW THAT OUR THOUGHTS WERE WITH YOU  
TODAY AS ROY ATHERTON AND I TOOK THE OATHS OF OUR NEW  
OFFICES IN A JOINT CEREMONY IN THE BEN FRANKLIN ROOM. IT  
WAS A LARGE GATHERING OF THE NEA FAMILY AND FRIENDS. IN  
ORDER THAT ALL OF YOU MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN SOME WAY ON THIS  
OCCASION, ROY AND I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU THE REMARKS THAT  
WERE MADE THERE. I HOPE THEY WILL CONVEY TO YOU THE SPIRIT  
IN WHICH WE APPROACH OUR NEW DUTIES. I LOOK FORWARD TO MY  
RENEWED ASSOCIATION WITH ALL OF YOU.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MAY  
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I WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THIS IS NOT  
ONLY THE BIGGEST CROWD, BUT IT'S BY FAR THE LONGEST  
APPLAUSE. PROBABLY THAT SAYS MORE THAN ANYTHING THAT I  
CAN SAY.

"BEFORE I BEGIN, SINCE THESE OCCASIONS ARE REALLY FAMILY

OCCASIONS, I WONDER IF I COULD ASK YOU BOTH TO INTRODUCE  
YOUR ATTRACTIVE FAMILIES.

"TO ADD TO THE FAMILY NATURE OF THESE OCCASIONS, I UNDERSTAND, AND I HOPE, MRS. ATHERTON, I'M NOT TELLING STORIES OUT OF SCHOOL, THAT THIS IS YOUR 87TH BIRTHDAY.

"AND THERE'S SOMETHING FOR THE OTHER SIDE TOO. CATHY (SAUNDERS), I UNDERSTAND TOMORROW IS YOUR 14TH BIRTHDAY?

SINCE BY ONE OF THOSE CHRONOLOGICAL COINCIDENCES, I HAVE AN 87 YEAR OLD MOTHER AND A 14 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, I SOMEHOW FEEL VERY CLOSE TO THIS OCCASION.

"ABOUT 17 YEARS AGO I FIRST HAD A BRIEF ENCOUNTER IN THIS BUILDING, WORKING FOR THEN UNDERSECRETARY BALL. THE STORY GOES THAT AFTER A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT SITUATION WITH THE LATE ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, GEORGE BALL CAME OUT TO CONFRONT A GROUP OF REPORTERS AND WAS ASKED--UNDER-SECRETARY BALL, ARE YOU OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC, AND HE REPLIED, 'NEITHER, I'M A DIPLOMAT.'

"WELL, THAT, I THINK, SUMS UP THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT THE TWO MEN WHO WERE SWORN IN HERE TOGETHER. THEY ARE DIPLOMATS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY, THEY'RE MEN WHO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN TESTED BY LONG TRIAL AND BY DEEP EXPERIENCE, AND THEY ARE THE BEST THAT AMERICA HAS TO OFFER FOR ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST PROBLEMS.

"MY TESTIMONY ON THIS IS NOT DETACHED; IT'S VERY CLOSE AND PERSONAL. I'VE WATCHED THEM IN THE YEAR AND A HALF THAT I'VE BEEN HERE, STEERING A STRAIGHT, STEADY, AND PATIENT COURSE, UNWILLING TO BE MOVED BY THE PRESSURE OF EVENTS TO TAKE RASH ACTS, ALWAYS FOLLOWING THE COURSE OF STEADY PROGRESS AND STABILITY.

"IT IS THAT KIND OF PROFESSIONALISM THAT HAS MARKED THEIR CAREERS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. SECRETARY VANCE QUITE OFTEN SEES THEM AS A TANDEM, AND HE HAS OFTEN ADMIRERD THE WAY THEY SEEM TO BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER IN PERFECT HARMONY. I'VE SEEN THEM TEAMING UP OUTSIDE OF HIS OFFICE CHECKING THEIR SIGNALS OFTEN ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT JUST HAPPENSTANCE.

"THEY DO CONFRONT A PROBLEM IN WHICH AMERICA HAS A DEEP, STRONG, LASTING, PERMANENT INTEREST. THEY ARE BRINGING TO BEAR THEIR TRIED AND TESTED SKILLS WITH PERSEVERANCE AND DETERMINATION, TO TRY TO BRING A

SOLUTION TO A LONG-STANDING PROBLEM. ABOVE ALL, THEY KNOW IT WON'T BE EASY.

"I THINK I'M ACCURATE IN SAYING THAT ROY HAS BEEN WORK-  
ING ON MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEMS HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT  
FOR 13 YEARS, AND HAL HAS BEEN WORKING ON PROBLEMS OF  
THIS CHARACTER EITHER AT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL OR  
HERE FOR NEARLY 17 YEARS NOW. SO THAT THEY KNOW THE  
PROBLEMS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO OVERNIGHT SOLUTION.

"BUT I THINK BOTH OF THEM SEE AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY  
TO BRING THAT TROUBLED REGION AND THE WORLD A STEP  
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CLOSER TO PEACE. TODAY'S SWEARING IN CEREMONY MARKS A  
NEW DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF THESE TWO MEN, ON THE  
PART OF OUR DEPARTMENT, AND ON THE PART OF THE UNITED  
STATES GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE THAT PROCESS, TO PER-  
SEVERE IN IT, AND ULTIMATELY, WITH GOD'S HELP, TO SUCCEED.

"THE TWO MEN ARE OFTEN GROUPED TOGETHER, BUT I WANT YOU  
TO KNOW THAT THEY HAVE THEIR OWN VERY SPECIAL IDENTITIES.  
ROY IS AFTER ALL FROM PITTSBURGH AND HAL FROM PHILA-  
DELPHIA. ROY WENT TO HARVARD AND HAL WENT TO PRINCETON,  
AND ROY IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY WAS AN ARMY OFFICER  
AND HAL WAS AN AIR FORCE OFFICER.

"THEY ARE, ALTHOUGH WE THINK OF THEM TOGETHER, VERY  
DISTINCT AND TREMENDOUSLY WARM PERSONALITIES WHO HAVE  
AN ABILITY TO COMBINE BOTH CONFIDENCE AND HUMILITY IN  
A WAY THAT I HAVE SELDOM SEEN IN TWO INDIVIDUALS.

"LET ME TAKE NO MORE OF YOUR TIME BUT TO SIMPLY SAY  
THAT THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY AND ALL OF OUR DEPART-  
MENT ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE DEDICATION AND STEADFASTNESS  
THAT THESE TWO MEN HAVE GIVEN TO THESE TASKS IN THE PAST,  
AND WE SEND THEM OFF ON NEW,DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENTS,  
KNOWING THAT THEY WILL GIVE THE VERY BEST, AND THAT  
THEIR BEST WILL BE AMERICA'S BEST. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

3. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ATHERTON: "THANK YOU VERY MUCH,  
CHRIS. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE JUST A FEW MINUTES, WITH  
YOUR PERMISSION, TO LOOK BACK A BIT AND ALSO TO LOOK  
FORWARD A BIT. IT'S 25 YEARS AGO THIS YEAR THAT I CAME  
TO NEA. IN A WAY IT WAS BY ACCIDENT, BUT I SUSPECT  
THAT THAT'S THE WAY MANY OF THE MAJOR TURNING POINTS  
IN OUR LIVES REALLY HAPPEN, IF WE ARE WILLING TO ADMIT  
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IT.

"I WILL SAY WITH TOTAL LACK OF OBJECTIVITY THAT I CAN'T

THINK OF ANY PART OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO SPEND THIS LAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY ASSOCIATED WITH THAN THIS BUREAU.

"IT'S NOT EASY TO DISENGAGE FROM AN INSTITUTIONAL TIE OF THAT LONG STANDING, BUT AT LEAST, HAL, I'M TURNING IT OVER TO YOU INTACT, AS IT WAS WHEN I RECEIVED IT, WHICH IS SOMETHING THAT I CAN'T SAY FOR SOME OF MY EARLIER PREDECESSORS. AND JUST TO ESTABLISH THAT FACT, I'D LIKE TO READ TO YOU FROM A LITTLE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOTICE THAT IS POSTED IN THE RECEPTION ROOM OF NEA.

"IT WAS THE DEPARTMENT NOTICE THAT ESTABLISHED WHAT WAS THEN CALLED THE DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS IN 1909, THE PREDECESSOR OF NEA, AND ITS GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED INCLUDED ALL OF THE FOLLOWING: GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, RUSSIA, ROUMANIA, SERBIA, BULGARIA, MONTENEGRO, TURKEY, GREECE, ITALY, ABYSSINIA, PERSIA, EGYPT, AND COLONIES BELONGING TO THOSE COUNTRIES.

"AS THE WORLD CHANGES, INSTITUTIONS CHANGE, BUT IN SOME WAYS THEY ALSO REMAIN THE SAME. I CAN RECALL SECRETARY KISSINGER SAYING IN THE PAST THAT NO ONE SINCE THE MAGNA CARTA HAS EVER HAD TO DEAL WITH AS MANY FEUDAL LORDS AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE DEALING WITH THE BUREAUS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THEIR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.

"I WOULD LIKE ONLY TO ASSURE SECRETARY VANCE AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING A NEW FIEFDOM, OR EVEN A SMALL DUCHY. IN FACT, HAL AND I HAVE WORKED OUT WHAT MAY BE A UNIQUE ARRANGEMENT. UNCLASSIFIED

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MENT IN THE HISTORY OF BUREAUCRATIC ANNALS. WE ARE GOING TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER. I'M NOT ESTABLISHING ANY NEW POSITIONS, EXCEPT ONE, FOR HELEN KAMER, WITHOUT WHOM I COULD NEVER GET ORGANIZED. AND OTHERWISE I'M GOING TO RELY ON THE BUREAU OF NEAR EASTERN-SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS FULLY FOR SUPPORT--NO SEPARATE EMPIRE.

"IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ALL THE PEOPLE THAT I'VE WORKED WITH ALL OF THESE YEARS IN NEA, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO JUST MAKE A FEW OBSERVATIONS. FIRST, A WHOLE SERIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARIES. HANK BYROADE WAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY WHEN I CAME, AND I REPLACED JOE SISCO AND MANY, MANY IN BETWEEN. I WOULD SAY PARTICULARLY I'VE BEEN FORTUNATE IN HAVING STRONG DEPUTIES, AND I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION IN PARTICULAR SID SOBER, WHO HAS BEEN MY SENIOR DEPUTY FOR ALL THESE YEARS. HE HAS DONE MORE THAN ANYONE CAN KNOW, THAN PERHAPS EVEN I KNOW, TO

HOLD THE BUREAU TOGETHER, TO KEEP THINGS MOVING, TO MAINTAIN ITS HIGH QUALITY, AND ITS HIGH STANDARDS DURING THE LONG, LONG PERIODS THAT I HAD TO BE AWAY ON MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

"I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DO WHAT IS TRADITIONAL, BUT ALSO HEART-FELT, AND PAY A LITTLE TRIBUTE TO MY FAMILY, TO MY MOTHER, AND HER SECRET HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN AWAY TODAY (HER 87TH BIRTHDAY), BUT WHO HAS BEEN WITH US OVERSEAS FOR MOST OF THE PAST 20 YEARS AS PART OF THE OFFICIAL FAMILY. TO BETTY WHO HAS LIVED THROUGH IT ALL WITH ME, AND WHO I THINK HAS LATELY IN PARTICULAR BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY TO BOTH TRY TO PRESERVE WHAT'S BEST IN THE OLD WAYS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE, AND TO ADAPT TO CHANGES WHICH ARE REQUIRED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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A CHANGING WORLD.

"AND TO OUR CHILDREN--UNFORTUNATELY LYNNE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD BE HERE TODAY, THEY'VE ALL GROWN UP, MOST OF IT IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE, AND A LARGE PART OF IT IN NEA OVERSEAS AND HERE. LYNNE BROUGHT WITH HER COMPENSATION FOR THE ABSENCE OF OUR TWO SONS, OUR SON-IN-LAW, RAVI DAT.

"AND FINALLY WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PAYING TRIBUTE, I STOPPED FOR JUST A MINUTE AS I CAME INTO THE BUILDING THIS MORNING TO LOOK AT THE HONOR ROLL DOWNSTAIRS, AND REALIZED THAT THERE ARE FIVE NAMES ON THAT HONOR ROLL OF NEA OFFICERS WHO WERE WITH US FIVE YEARS AGO. CLEO NOEL, CURT MOORE, RODGER DAVIES, FRANK MELOY AND BOB WARING, ALL OF WHOM WERE KILLED, THEY WERE MURDERED IN EFFECT, ONLY BECAUSE THEY WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

"AND FOUR OF THE FIVE, I THINK, CAN HONESTLY BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN DIRECT VICTIMS OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. AND THAT, I THINK, IS A GOOD POINT AT WHICH TO START LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, AND NOT BACK TO THE PAST.

"I'M GOING TO DEDICATE MYSELF, PERSONALLY, FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE, TO THE TASK OF ENDING A CONFLICT THAT HAS TAKEN TOO MANY LIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SOME IN THIS COUNTRY. PROFESSIONALLY I HAVE BOTH PRIDE AND A COMMITMENT TO DO ALL I CAN AS PART OF A TEAM EFFORT TO HELP BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FRIENDS IN ISRAEL, OUR FRIENDS IN THE ARAB WORLD, FOR THE SAKE OF THE INTERESTS OF THIS COUNTRY, AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD GENERALLY IN THE LONG RUN.

"I AM HONORED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF  
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STATE HAVE CHOSEN ME TO PLAY A PART IN THOSE EFFORTS.  
I AM CONFIDENT THAT SOME DAY THE FORCES OF REASON, OF  
VISION AND OF HUMANITY ARE GOING TO TRIUMPH. AND WHEN  
THEY DO WE WILL HAVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THANK  
YOU."

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDER S: "I HAD A LITTLE  
RESEARCH DONE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN  
MULTIPLE SWEARINGS-IN BEFORE. I WAS TOLD THAT THERE  
WAS NOTHING UNIQUE IN THIS, BUT I PERSIST IN THE BELIEF  
THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THERE'S BEEN A SWEARING-IN  
OF SIAMESE TWINS.

"MR. SECRETARY, I'D LIKE TO, IF I MAY, DIRECT REMARKS IN  
FIVE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS VERY BRIEFLY.

"FIRST OF ALL TO YOU, TO THE SECRETARY, AND TO THE  
PRESIDENT. HAVING SERVED WITH FIVE PRESIDENTS AND FOUR  
SECRETARIES OF STATE VERY CLOSELY, I KNOW THE BURDENS  
OF THOSE OFFICES. TO YOU WE PLEDGE THE SATISFACTION OF  
POLICIES WELL CONCEIVED AND FAITHFULLY AND FORCEFULLY  
IMPLEMENTED IN THE HOPES OF LIGHTENING YOUR BURDENS.

"MR. AMBASSADOR, ROY, AS I SAID TO OUR COLLEAGUES ON A  
PREVIOUS OCCASION IN NEA, I DEEPLY RESPECT YOU AS A  
PERSON, AS A FRIEND, AND AS A PROFESSIONAL. WE HAVE  
WORKED TOGETHER SO CLOSELY, ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST FOUR  
YEAR, THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO AN EASY, NATURAL, WORKING  
RELATIONSHIP. WE BOTH KNOW FROM OUR CONVERSATIONS THAT  
IN OTHER SITUATIONS, THE NEW RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS ABOUT  
TO BEGIN BETWEEN US COULD BE A POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT ONE  
JURISDICTIONALLY, BUT IN THIS CASE I SEE NO PROBLEM. I  
DON'T KNOW WHY ROY IS TALKING ABOUT DISENGAGING FROM  
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NEA. HE IS STILL, AS HE HIMSELF HAS RIGHTLY SAID, VERY  
MUCH A PART OF NEA. NEA IS SIMPLY ENRICHED BY HAVING  
HIM CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THIS NEW FUNCTION.

"THIRD, JUST A WORD TO MY COLLEAGUES IN THE BUREAU OF  
INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH, WHOM I'M LEAVING TODAY.  
WE'VE ENGAGED TOGETHER IN THE EFFORT TO BRING TO BEAR ON  
THE POLICY PROCESSES OF THIS GOVERNMENT THE VAST RESOURCES  
AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. I COUNT IT  
A REAL PRIVILEGE AND IT'S BEEN AN INTELLECTUALLY EXCIT-  
ING TIME TO HAVE SHARED IN THAT ENTERPRISE WITH YOU.  
I KNOW THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK IN THAT ENTERPRISE

TOGETHER IN THE TIME AHEAD.

"FOURTH, TO THE WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTS REPRESENTED BY

ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY--INTERESTS INVOLVING THE NATIONS  
IN NORTH AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SOUTH ASIA--I  
WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT THE CENTRAL PART OF MY REMARKS.

"YOU REPRESENT HERE TODAY PEOPLE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH,  
IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND  
OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE PRESS, THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY,  
THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THOSE COMMUNITIES OF AMERICANS  
WHO HAVE SPECIAL TIES AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE  
NATIONS IN THIS AREA. AND YOU REPRESENT, YOUR EXCELLEN-  
CIES, YOUR COUNTRIES IN OUR CAPITAL.

"THIS IS IN A SENSE THE MIDDLE EAST COMMUNITY IN WASHING-  
TON, ALONG WITH THE MANY WHO STAND BEHIND YOU, OUT ACROSS  
OUR CITY AND ACROSS OUR COUNTRY. WE INVITED YOU HERE  
TODAY NOT ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR FRIENDS, BUT BECAUSE  
WE ALSO WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE  
TO PURSUE THE DIPLOMACY OF PEACE, THE DIPLOMACY OF  
RECONCILIATION, ACROSS THIS AREA, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE  
INTERESTS THAT YOU REPRESENT MAY WELL IN THE FUTURE REP-  
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RESENT MUCH OF THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE AREA THAT  
WE'RE DEALING WITH.

"I WANT TO SAY TO YOU THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE LOOKS  
FORWARD TO BEING A CENTER OF THIS COMMUNITY, WORKING WITH  
YOU, WORKING WITH THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT--  
TREASURY, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, H.E.W., DEFENSE, THE  
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE NEW INTERNA-  
TIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY, CIA, AND SO ON.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU. WE RECOG-  
NIZE THAT THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST, SOUTH ASIA, NORTH AFRICA, IS NOT SIMPLY THE CONDUCT  
OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND FOREIGN  
MINISTRIES, OR EVEN BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENT AND OTHER  
GOVERNMENTS. IT IS THE CONDUCT OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF WHICH WE ARE ALL A PART, AND WE  
PLEDGE TO YOU, THE MIDDLE EASTERN COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED  
STATES, A POLICY WHICH IS SENSITIVE TO YOUR INTERESTS.

"FINALLY, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY TO MY FAMILY MY THANKS  
FOR THEIR SUPPORT. WE HAVE TALKED ON MANY OCCASIONS IN  
THE PAST FOUR YEARS ABOUT WHETHER THIS IS THE RIGHT PRO-  
FESSION FOR ME, AND MY CHILDREN HAVE SAID, "AS LONG AS  
YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING IMPORTANT AND YOU'RE HAPPY,  
WE'RE HAPPY." AND I THINK THAT'S THE BEST ENDORSEMENT

THAT I COULD HAVE.

"THANK YOU, VERY MUCH." END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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